

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed January 24, 2008. Through this response, claim 18 has been amended consistent with suggestions made in the final Office Action on pages 3-6, and claims 18 and 21 have been further amended to place the claims in better condition for publication. Additionally, claims 1-3 and 5-11 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims 18, 21, and 23-30 are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 21 and 27-30 are allowable over the art of record.

Additionally, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 18 and 23-26 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the 112 second paragraph rejection. In that it is believed that every rejection has been rendered moot by amendment, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Objections

The final Office Action objects to claim 18 due to various alleged informalities. Applicants have replaced "that" with "than," and have incorporated "transition" language corresponding to the recited "duration" features of claim 18 as suggested by the Examiner on pages 5-6 on the final Office Action. In that it is believed that every objection has been rendered moot by amendment, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite, particularly through the use of terms "substantially-immediate" and "substantially instantaneous" as set forth on pages 3-4 and 6 of the final Office Action. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection, in the interest of expediting allowance of the claims, Applicants have canceled claim 1 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and have amended claim 18 to delete the "substantially instantaneous" language and replace the same with "immediate" as supported explicitly in Applicants' specification (e.g., page 5, lines 19-30). Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that claim 18 (and corresponding dependent claims) defines an embodiment of an invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Hence, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *Eitan et al.* ("*Eitan*," U.S. Pat. No. 5,886,561). Claims 1 and 6-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *Little et al.* ("*Little*," U.S. Pat. No. 4,908,790). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, in the interest of expediting allowance of the claims, Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 5-11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been rendered moot by cancellation of the claims.

V. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 1-3 and 5-11 have been canceled from the application through this response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

/dr/
David Rodack
Registration No. 47,034

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1500
600 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500